

A BUFFALO HUNT.

A Party of Tenderfeet in Kansas Who Went Out After Bison Treated to a Surprise.

Curious Actions of Some of the Herd Which the Hunters Found Hard to Explain.

Killing a Noble Animal and Stomping the Herd, to be Afterwards Robbed by Reds.

New York Sun: One day, while I was ticket agent at the Kansas Pacific railroad at Wallace, Kan., during the years that buffalo were still roaming in vast herds over the plains, the telegraph operator at the station came into my office in a great state of excitement.

"There's a million buffalo feeding on the prairie only three miles below here," he exclaimed, "and not more than a quarter of a mile from the railroad track. Let's go down and bag a few."

I was still a tenderfoot in the region and was crazy to kill a buffalo. So in less than ten minutes after the operator brought me the news we mounted a hand car and, accompanied by one of the train conductors, were spinning along toward the spot where the buffaloes were reported to be feeding. The report hadn't been exaggerated, except that the buffaloes were feeding no nearer than a mile from the track. That was the first herd of buffalo I had seen. I saw many a big, and many a small, but never saw one that could compare in vastness with this great bison gathering. The prairie seemed black with them. They formed one black, unbroken, undulating mass that seemed bounded only at the horizon, and stretched eastward and westward as far as the eye could follow it. The herd was on the north side of the railroad and feeding toward it. Derrailing our hand car and taking our guns, we proceeded cautiously across the prairie, half creeping, half crawling, until we had succeeded in approaching to within a quarter of a mile of the advance guard of the mighty host.

We then lay flat in the grass and spent some minutes in curious observation of the throng. We were not far from the center of the herd, and it was divided up into detachments, that one of which was composed of a bunch of cows and half grown calves, around which was a formidable looking crowd of sleek young spike bulls who had evidently won their places in the royal body guard by more than one hard-fought battle with contending rivals. In advance of all these guarded detachments ranged an endless line of old bulls, immense specimens of their race, but silent and lathered-deposed monarchs, serving where they had once ruled, and plainly showing that they felt their degradation. By the inevitable and inexorable laws of buffalo government they had been forced to abandon all participation in the feeding of affairs, and were now simply doing duty as outposts to the young usurpers in their realm, and looking out for signs of danger and keeping at a distance the packs of coyotes that hung about the herd on the lookout for a chance to run off some stray calf or exhausted bull.

The line of the young bulls was as tight as a drum, and they were a mucky and disreputable looking lot. Their coats were ragged, and their forelegs matted and mucky. Their horns were splintered, and, together with the wounds in their shoulders and sides, were vivid evidences of how the shaggy monsters had fought to maintain their ascendancy.

As we lay there watching the systematic arrangement and contentment of the herd in its divisions and subdivisions and line of outposts, our attention was attracted by the peculiar actions of various members of one of the detachments, which seemed nearest to us. First one buffalo would give a sudden jump, run several steps, stop and look back, and then giving the body a thorough shaking would resume his feeding again, only to repeat his strange maneuvers a few minutes later. Another and another were affected in the same way, and one after another they finally fell abruptly to the ground, and lay stretched motionless there at full length.

"It seems to me," said I, in a whisper to my companion, "that rattlesnakes are getting in their work on those buffaloes."

"No," said my companion, "I never saw anything like that before, and can't understand it."

THE FATE OF FORTUNES.

It Doesn't Take Long to Scatter Them in America.

San Francisco Chronicle: Much apprehension is felt and often expressed concerning the concentration of enormous wealth in America in the hands of a few persons, the idea being that a sort of plutocratic dynasty may be established, which will tend to destroy republican institutions in time and to subvert the liberties of the people. The impression is quite general that there is a source of great danger to the nation in these gigantic fortunes, and some reformers have even gone so far as to propose that hereditary wealth should be limited by law, the excess over a certain sum to go not to the rich man's legatee and devisees, but to the state. This idea, however, has not been received with general favor, for it antagonizes the theory of property, which seems to be too deeply seated in the mind of the nation to be easily overturned.

The danger of a dynasty of plutocrats is rather imaginary than real. Large fortunes become scattered in many generations, and might be imagined, or put it as it has been already expressed by an American writer, "it is not more than three generations between shirt-sleeves and shillings." This rise and fall of a fortune could hardly be expressed more tersely and epigrammatically, and at the same time with more truth. The representative of the first generation takes off his coat and goes to work in his shirt-sleeves, and by increasing industry accumulates a competence. To him succeeds his son, who inherits his father's industry, and has superadded to that industry the gifts of money-making, and he dies very rich. Then comes his son, in whom the old stock shows marked signs of deterioration, and his life is spent in dissipation, but not in earning it, so that when he dies the fortune which he inherited has vanished.

This is reducing the case to the simplest possible terms, for it must be apparent that with a family of sons and daughters the acquired fortune will disappear in a few more generations. Take a few figures by way of further illustration: Our imaginary representative of the second generation dies worth, let us say, \$2,000,000, but he leaves two sons and two daughters. His fortune is divided into four equal parts, giving \$500,000 to each child. Should each of these children have three children, the share of each would be but \$125,000, even if the original fortune were to remain intact, but as the sixteen children it is certain that at least one-half would be improvident, especially if born to a fortune. So it is safe to say that by the end of the second generation the fortune of \$2,000,000 would have dwindled to \$1,000,000, and that a third generation would see the money scattered far and wide.

America has presented thus far but two exceptions to this rule, in the families of the Astors and the Vanderbilts, and the time has not fully run to say with certainty that they are exceptions. But even if they prove to be they do not destroy the force of the proposition as a general truth, that great fortunes can not be held together for a very long period, but will become broken up and scattered in a few generations to the general mass of the wealth of the country from which they had been segregated.

Of course the absence of the law of primogeniture and of the law of entail makes this dissolution of fortune more probable in the United States than in the land where these laws prevail. In Great Britain landed estates descend from generation to generation because so strictly is the law of entail observed, that in reality is only a life interest in the land, and only one child takes that. With us, on the other hand, the law of inheritance is practically unknown, and the land is divided among all the children, and in some states the law itself insists upon a division among all the children, so that it is impracticable to transmit property as it is in England.

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Excursion Rates to St. Paul. The Montana Central Railway company has arranged to give a rate of \$48.90 from all points on their line to St. Paul and return for the Twin City Jockey Club meeting at St. Paul in July. Tickets will be on sale July 21st, good to return until August 2nd. This will give everybody an opportunity of seeing the Kentucky Derby winner, Spokane, entered for some of the principal events of the meeting. The above reduction will make the round trip rate, Helena to Chicago and return, \$71.90, on same date (July 21st) good to return until August 2nd.

Teachers National Educational Association Meeting. For the above the Montana Central will make a rate of \$68.40 to Nashville, Tenn., and return tickets on sale June 30th to July 1st, good to return until Sept. 12. Transit limit of ticket six days.

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